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Outdoors in georgia

December 1974



JR DARNELL

Outdoors in georgia

December, 1974

Volume III

Number 12

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ON THE FRONT COVER: "Whitetail," a limited edition print by James R. Darnell. Copies of this 20" x 26" print are available for \$30 each from the artist at Route #1, Box 285-10, Oakwood, GA 30566.

ON THE BACK COVER: A "last chance" offering of the new quail management book by Charles Elliot. This fine book, published by the Department of Natural Resources, costs only \$4.50 until Dec. 15. After that it will be \$5.50, so order yours now.

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The Gift

Soon the holiday season will be upon us, that time of joy, of celebration, of reaffirmation. It is the traditional time to exchange the gifts and greetings that renew old relationships and solidify new ones.

In this 1974 holiday season, those who love the outdoors *must* consider a very difficult gift to an uncommon recipient. The gift is time, the recipient our natural world.

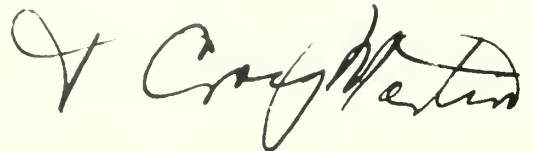
We take everything from our earth, and we give so little in return. But we can give our time, and our concentration, to try to understand the incredibly complex problems of our environment. Choices between alternative solutions to these problems are made every day; and it is our responsibility — as those who claim some special relationship with the outdoors — to understand those alternatives so that we can influence the decisions.

Everyone has solutions to environmental problems: the Sierra Club, the Soil Conservation Service, the Department of Natural Resources, the Corps of Engineers, the Friends of the Earth, the Audubon Society, the Wildlife Federation; all enthusiastically tout “true” answers to important problems.

As we all know, these “true” solutions frequently call for opposite steps. They are proposed in good faith, and they *do* embody the “truth” as one individual or agency sees it. But each solution has a cost, sometimes a terrible cost, and it is up to us, the outdoors people, to understand and weigh those costs.

So one of our gifts this holiday season should be time, time to study environmental problems, to understand the costs involved in any plan that deals with our natural world. Time to study these problems not as bass fishermen or deer hunters or backpackers or rock hounds or bird watchers or whitewater kayakists. No, not as members of any of these parochial interest groups, but as men and women who love the outdoors in its totality.

Perhaps in this way we can reaffirm a bit of our very one-sided affair with nature.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "V. Craig Martin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "V" at the beginning and a long, sweeping underline that extends across the bottom of the signature.



Lapham- Patterson

Photos by Bob Busby



December 1974

A Victorian

by Bob Wind

Thomasville, a city famous for its beautiful homes, soon will offer another attraction to its thousands of visitors: the newly restored Lapham-Patterson House will open Christmas week to present a look at an 1880's Christmas.

Named for its first and last owners, the Lapham-Patterson House is another step toward the Parks and Historic Sites Division's goal of preserving prime examples of major types of architecture in Georgia.

Situated on the east side of North Dawson Street, it is only a short distance from the Thomas County Courthouse on one of Thomasville's beautiful oak shaded streets. Although many of the homes on North Dawson date from the same era as the Lapham-Patterson House, there will be no problem in recognizing this striking site.

Gleaming behind its distinctive stone and metal fence, the vibrant yellow house—with its two massive columns and front porches on all three stories—is truly singular. The grounds are being brought back to their former glory following a landscape design by Mrs. Juanita Edwards, former superintendent at the Washington-Wilkes Museum. The grounds will serve as a year round setting, offering a great variety of plants, walkways, and a restored fountain.

Inside, there are unique features like the intricately made floors and the stairway supported by a fireplace with twin flues on each side of the balcony. The Christmas week visitor will move through furnished areas, some complete with well researched seasonal decorations. In other

Prize

Photo by Dovid Kominsky





Photo by Bob Busby

areas, exhibits will place the house in historical perspective.

A tour will include glimpses of the Victorian lifestyle from the great hall to the kitchen, and exhibits that range from comparisons of Victorian furnishings to the nuts and bolts of restoration. There will be gaps in the interpretive furnishings, some of which may take years to fill. In a restoration, one object must stand for a whole class, so individual items are very carefully selected. When the entire "want list" for Lapham-Patterson is filled, it will be a fine showcase of Victoriana.

The variety of shapes, textures, and forms drew attention to the house and its recognition as a historic site. It has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places and has been declared a National Landmark by the federal government.

The house was purchased by the City of Thomasville and turned over to the state in December, 1971. Since then, thousands of hours have gone into research, emergency repair, architectural study, interior design, interpretive

planning, and archaeology. Many years usually are involved in completing a historic site, and in most cases the historic research never is completed.

Staff Preservationist Talley Kirkland conducted a small archeological dig to prove the location of missing buildings, and in the process discovered remnants of the self-contained gas-light system, a cistern, and portions of brick walks. To add information to the physical evidence, former site Superintendent John Patterson and current Superintendent Marty Willett researched many facets of the house and its owners.

Thomasville Landmarks and the Thomas County Historical Society aided in the research. The Thomas Area Technical School aided in architectural planning, and Florida State University students helped with interior design.

The builder, C. W. Lapham, came to Thomasville in 1882 to stay in one of the city's famous resort hotels as a refuge from the harsh winters in his native Chicago. He decided to build a winter home, and it was completed in 1885.

Lapham's experience with the great Chicago fire of 1871 leads to some interesting speculation on the architecture of the house. Visitors will notice that most of the rooms have multiple entrances and that almost all rooms provide an outside exit.

Then, too, the shapes are interesting. Did the hex signs on the decorative "gingerbread," the gate, and the walks serve to ward off the threat of fire? Were the rooms with six sides to serve the same purpose? The questions probably never will be answered.

The second owner of the house was James Larmon, president of the Cincinnati Barbed Wire Company. Mr. Larmon died nine months after purchasing the house but it stayed in the Larmon family from 1894 to 1905.

James Gould Patterson, who was in the naval stores industry, was the first owner to use the house as a permanent residence. The Patterson family owned the house until November, 1970; the last owner and resident was Alice (Patterson) Stevens, Patterson's daughter.



SCATTERGUNS

by Aaron Pass

The modern shotgun as we know it is the product of a long evolutionary process. The idea of shooting a bunch of small pellets to increase the likelihood of hitting small targets is as old as the concept of guns. This idea has been developed into the efficient and specialized arms we use today. Some of the changes have been major and visible, others have been more subtle, but all have contributed to the modern shotgun.

For all of this, the shotgun's essential purpose has remained pretty much the same. It fires a mass of fine lead shot down a hollow steel tube to, occasionally, intercept a moving target.

So has it always been, and with certain modifications so shall it always be.

Over the years black powder has been supplanted by smokeless, shotshells have replaced the ramrod, and new mechanisms open and close the breech for a second shot. In the 1880's the process of choke boring was perfected. This constricted the mass of shot, holding it together at longer range. The list of innovations is long, and has produced fine, efficient shotguns.

The current selection of readily available shotguns includes five basic actions, six gauges, and three degrees of choke. Within these



Photos by Bob Busby

Break-open single shot

variables, it is possible to select a gun specialized to a particular function or generalist which does many jobs adequately.

The break-open single shot is familiar to almost everyone. This simple, rugged gun has stood in thousands of farmhouse corners, and taught thousands of farm boys the bitter realities of "shooting flying." Generally long of barrel, thin of comb, and vicious of recoil, the single-shooter has its points. Economy is the strongest one, along with light weight, safety, and lack of complication to engender breakdowns. There is an exception to the economy rule; the single shot trap gun is a true specialist. Carefully handcrafted, this gun is expensive and could never be confused with its homely country cousin in the fireplace corner.

Speaking of expensive, the double barrel, incarnated as either side-by-side or over/under, is a master of that class. This venerable action works on the break-open principal like the single shot and is a direct outgrowth of the percussion muzzle loaders of the 1800's. As the double was the only multiple shot smoothbore available for many years, it developed quite a following.

Side by side



It was popular, but was also difficult to build correctly, requiring much hand fitting.

The hard times of the Depression and the shortages of WW II finished off most American mid-priced doubles. Only the lower-priced economy models and the fabulously expensive luxury jobs survived. The popularity of the "twice barrel shot-gun" currently is up. It is shorter than other repeaters, better balanced, and, when well built, possesses a touch of class that cannot be duplicated in any other action. The over/under is more popular in the U.S. while the classic side-by-side is only "proper" in England.

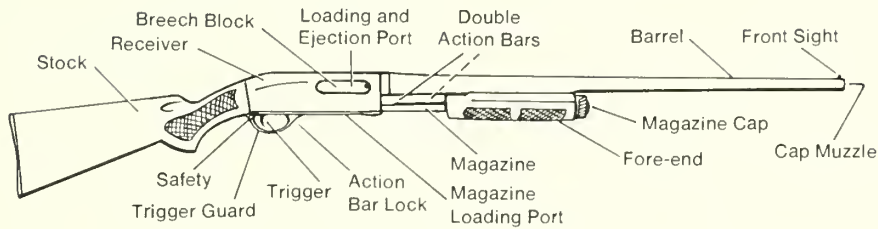


Over/under

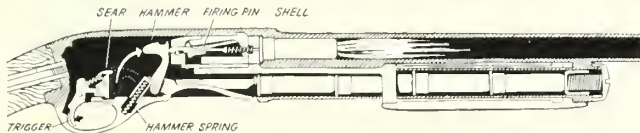
If England is home to the classic double, the pump is as American as baseball, hot dogs, apple pie, etc. This action is operated by sliding the forend to and fro, opening and closing the bolt. The pump came along in the 1890's, and has been popular ever since. Originally adopted by the market hunters because of its five (and more) shot capacity, the pump has a look of deadly efficiency. In operation, the pump is a rugged, dependable performer, and is justly popular. Well-designed pumps have no generic faults, other than shotgun purists who contend that stylistically it appears to have been designed by a plumber. Such snobbish prejudices aside, the pump is firmly established as an excellent and reliable action.

The self-loading semi-automatic is little more than a pump that does its own driving. By harnessing recoil forces the semi-auto feeds itself and dampens its kick.

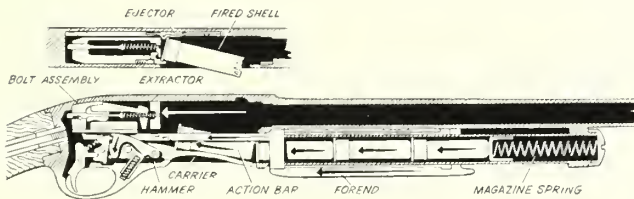
PARTS OF A TYPICAL PUMP-ACTION SHOTGUN



Pump Action



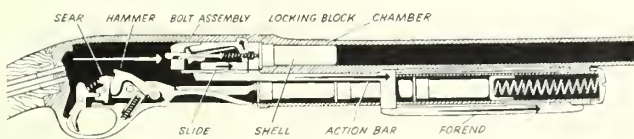
1. Starting with the gun loaded and cocked, pulling the trigger trips the sear, releasing the hammer to strike the firing pin and fire the shell.



2. Pulling the fore-end rearward moves the action bar and bolt assembly toward the rear, ejecting the fired shell (see also top-view detail of ejection), pressing the hammer down into cocked position, and moving the new shell onto the carrier.

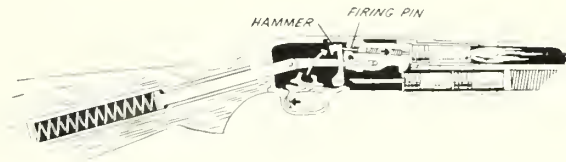


3. Detail of the carrier mechanism (left) shows how the bolt assembly at its rearmost position engages the carrier dog. As the bolt assembly moves forward (right), it moves the carrier dog downward, pivoting the carrier and new shell up into loading position. At the same time the shell latch moves to the right to hold the remaining shells in the magazine.

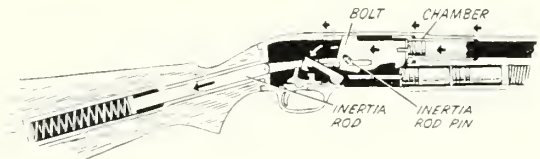


4. As the fore-end action bar and bolt assembly continue to move forward, the new shell is pushed into the chamber, and the sear engages the hammer, locking it. At the final movement of the fore-end, the slide continues forward, pushing the locking block up to lock the action for firing.

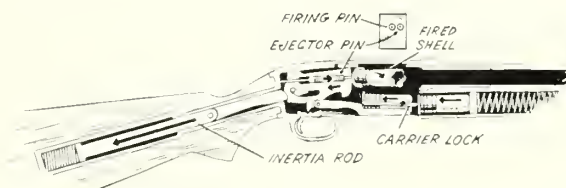
Recoil-operated Automatic



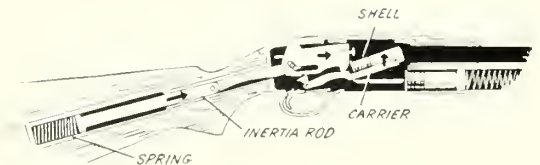
1. Starting with the gun cocked and loaded, squeezing the trigger causes the hammer to hit the firing pin and fire the shell.



2. Backward force of the recoil moves the chamber and bolt $\frac{1}{10}$ inch, kicking the inertia rod pin so that the rod travels rearward. As it travels backward the inertia rod recocks the hammer.

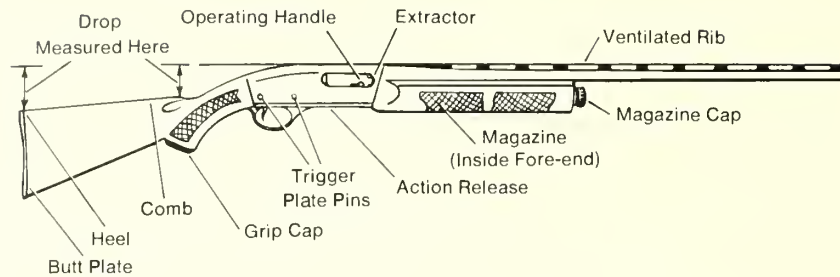


3. Full rearward travel of the inertia rod pulls back the bolt, and the ejector pin throws out the spent shell through the side opening. Carrier lock pivots, admitting new shell onto carrier.



4. The spring at the base of the inertia rod starts the rod returning, moving the bolt forward. As the bolt begins to move, it pivots the carrier, which lifts the new shell into loading position. Full forward movement of bolt carries new shell into chamber.

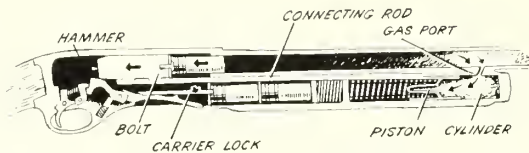
PARTS OF A TYPICAL AUTOLOADING SHOTGUN



Gas-operated Automatic



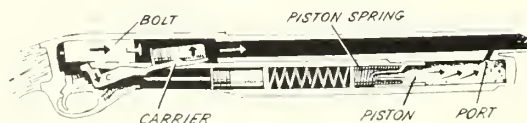
1. Starting with the gun cocked and loaded, squeezing the trigger releases the hammer, which strikes the firing pin and fires the shell.



2. The gas generated by the fired shell is metered down through the gas port in the barrel into the cylinder. The pressure of the gas in the cylinder pushes the piston and connecting rod rearward, moving the bolt from the chamber. As the bolt travels rearward it recocks the hammer and opens the carrier lock.



3. Further rearward travel of the bolt ejects the spent shell through the side opening, and the magazine spring pushes a fresh shell onto the carrier.



4. The piston spring starts the piston forward, moving the bolt forward, and pivoting the carrier to bring the new shell into loading position. As bolt moves all the way forward, it loads the new shell into the chamber. Spent gas escapes through the port.

In the first autoloaders the inertia from the recoiling barrel supplied the momentum, and this design is still around. Lately, gas operation is all the rage, and an efficient system it is. Ports in the barrel bleed off excess gas, which pushes a piston, which operates the action. Stylistically the semi-auto resembles the pump, and likewise suffers no generic flaws.

The bolt action shotgun is sort of a misfit, a shotgun in an optimum rifle action. Actually the bolt action is a simple, sturdy, and cheap repeater. Often it is chosen by hunters who want to use slugs, but don't want to bugger up a classier shotgun with rifle type sights.

Around the turn of the Century, Winchester marketed a lever action shotgun. Apparently the action which won the west didn't win the favor of shotgunners. It soon was discontinued.

Of the five gauges, let us first dispense with the .410 (in reality a caliber). This shotgun is purported to have some useful purposes, such as for youngsters and real "hot shots." Since it is the most difficult to hit with, it has built in frustrations for the beginner. Its sparse pattern also limits multiple pellet hits and thus

Action illustrations by Ray Pioch reproduced from the **Complete Outdoors Encyclopedia** by Popular Science, Outdoor Life Book Division, Times Mirror Magazines, Inc.



Bolt action

Photo by Bob Busby

diminishes its effectiveness on game, *even in expert hands*. Perhaps the .410 has applicability as a skeet class where one pellet will make a "kill," but for hunting the .410 is at its best on the skeet range.

The 28 gauge edges into the arena of hunting respectability. Throwing superior patterns to the .410, the 28 is adequate for delicate game at close range. For beginners, it still is marginal and should be left to the top shooters.

In the practical game gauges, the triad of 20, 16, 12 rapidly is becoming a duet. The long-favored 16 gauge, queen of the uplands, is under seige. Surrounded by light 12's and the 3-inch magnum 20, the 16 doesn't even have a skeet class to call its own. A good upland gauge, it is steadily losing ground.

The 20 gauge is a recent bloom. Once thought adequate only for women, children, and the elite plantation quail shooters, the 20 now is a serious contender. With 3-inch chambers and heavy shot loads it eclipses the 16 and pushes the light 12. In the uplands and for light ducking, it is a good gun; but it is not a 12 and never will be.

The 12 gauge still reigns as king of U.S. shotgun gauges. The reason is simple—it is good for everything. In lightweight versions, the 12 is a comfortable upland gun—patterning better than a 20 with comparable shot charges.

With heavier loads the 12 walks away from its competition. As an "all around" gauge, the 12 is hard to beat.

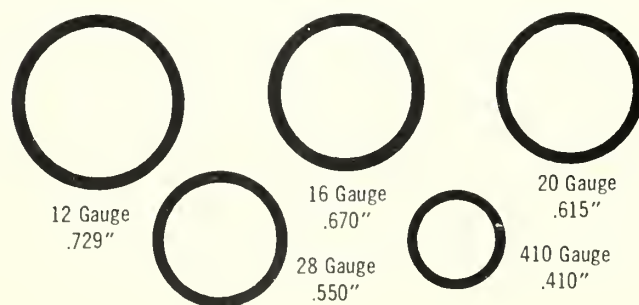
The big 10 gauge lost its wallop for a while but may be coming back. It has been available only in imports for years, but recently a U.S. made auto-loader in 10 gauge appeared. Possibly this is in preparation for the mandatory use of iron shot for waterfowl shooting.

In choking, U.S. shooters long have been all choked up. They seem to follow the national dictum: "since some is good, more is better, and the most you can get is the best of all."

Many fair shots have become good shots by going to a more open choke, which throws a wider, more even pattern. Birds seldom are as far away as they seem, and we seldom are good enough shots to hit the ones that are. Improved cylinder is good up to 35 yards; modified 45; and full, 50—maybe 55 with top loads and good shooting.

Picking the proper shotgun for the purpose is not the problem it's cracked up to be. Simply decide what you want, then decide what you need. Then go buy what you want, otherwise you'll be miserable. This also is a nifty excuse to buy what you need later, and, if you really goofed initially, you'll appreciate it all the more.

There is a nasty rumor about that all freshmen shotgunners are freckle faced boys (named Jack Armstrong, no doubt) with inordinately short arms, and a safety capacity of one shot. Not so. Many women, young men of near manly stature, and older men of increased leisure are browsing in gun shops.



Courtesy of Remington Arms

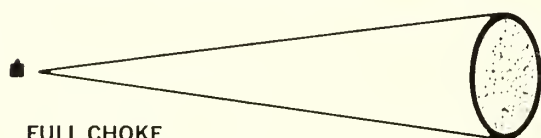
The often recommended “beginner’s” gun is a hard kicking single shot, with an amputated stock that can take “rough treatment.” If the beginner is a youngster, make sure he wants the gun, get him one that he can be proud of, and teach him to use and care for it properly. If you can’t manage this, get him a bicycle and you’ll both be safer.

As for the one shot “safety” feature, almost no hunting accidents require two shots.

On the adult side, the beginning shotgunner can choose among many fine styles and gauges. A good way to do this is by talking with experienced gun dealers and friends who shoot. Since most firearms dealers (not discount store sporting goods departments) are experienced shooters and carry all popular brands and styles, their advice is sound and reasonably objective.

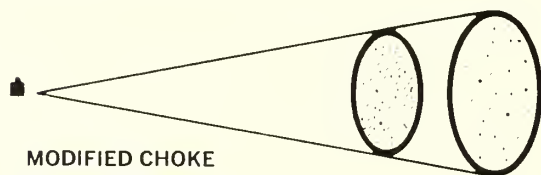
There are a few tenets to remember. Larger gauges handle heavy shot loads best and the more shot, the more hits. This same combination also produces more recoil. Heavier guns kick less and auto-loaders kick least of all (because they dissipate the recoil when using it to operate the action). The more open the choke, the easier to hit, but there is some sacrifice of extreme range.

“Spread Effect” of the 3 Most Common Types of Choke



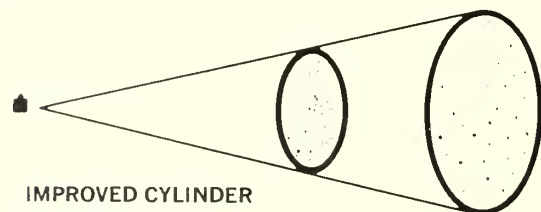
FULL CHOKE

Used when shooting between 45 and 55 yards away.



MODIFIED CHOKE

For ranges between 25 and 45 yards.



IMPROVED CYLINDER

For shooting up to 35 yards.

Courtesy of Remington Arms

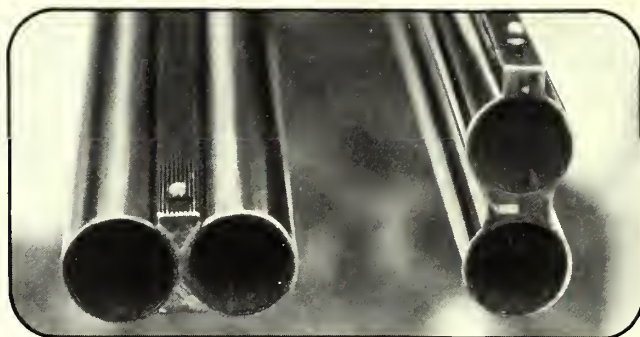


Photo by Bob Busby

For upland hunting—12, 16, and 20 are the gauges and open are the chokes. A light, quick pointing gun which throws its pattern where you look is necessary. Doubles, both side-by-side and over/under, are ideal. The longer, heavier pumps and autos have theoretical limitations, but many good hunters use them in preference to the doubles.

Duck hunters need a heavier gun to soak up the recoil from heavy loads. A 12 is tops, but 16’s and 20’s will suffice if the shooter uses discretion. For this relatively deliberate shooting, the longer heavier actions are not detrimental and may be assets to good shooting. Tighter chokes and heavier shot usually are prescribed.

Trap and skeet shooting are specialties best accomplished by guns designed for the purpose. In a pinch an upland gun shoots skeet, and a duck gun works at trap. When shooting slugs, mount rifle sights on any single barreled gun, or better yet, buy a slug gun.

The so-called all-around shotgun is a popular fantasy with smooth bore enthusiasts. Supposedly this gun will handle all shotgun situations equally well. As has been noted there are several divergent types of shotgun shooting; there is probably no one gun that will deal with them all as well as a set of guns specifically designed for the different uses.

There are some combinations that do an *adequate* job at *most*, however. The best choice would be a double, over/under or side-by-side, choked improved cylinder and modified weighing about 7½ pounds. A 12 gauge would be preferred, but a 3-inch 20 wouldn’t sacrifice a great deal. Another generalist might be a pump or auto with a variable choke device or a modified choke, of the same weight and gauge.

Red-Cockaded Woodpecker

by Derry Stockbridge

Georgians interested in seeing one of our rare and endangered species have only a short drive from any place in the state to discover a remarkable species of woodpecker.

The red-cockaded woodpecker (*Dendrocopos borealis*) has been listed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as a rare and endangered species since 1969. Although its population has been dwindling since the turn of the century, it still can be found in relatively large numbers in several of our state's protected areas.

The red-cockaded is 7 to 8 inches long and has a wingspan of 14 to 15 inches. It can be distinguished from its close relatives, the hairy and downy woodpeckers, by its large white cheek patches and by the "ladder-backed" pattern of its black and white striped back and wings. Two red tufts of feathers on either side of the male's head give this little bird its name.

The red-cockaded woodpecker owes its endangered status to a unique choice of nesting sites. While all other woodpeckers prefer dead trees, the red-cockaded roosts and nests only in living pines infected with the fungus *Fomes pini*. This infection, known as "red

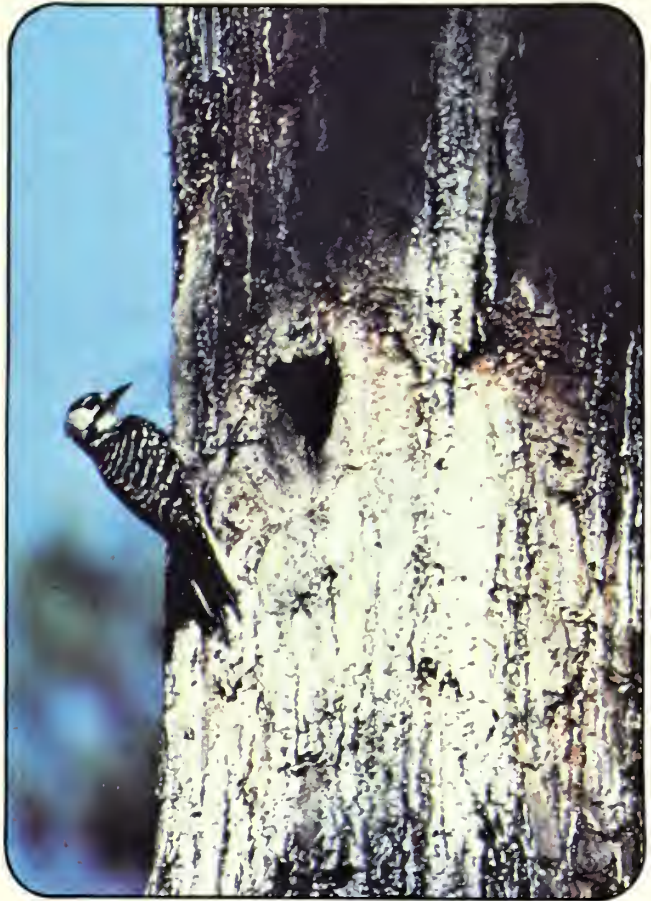


Photo by Bill Julian / U.S. Bureau of Sports Fisheries and Wildlife

heart" disease, enters pines through wounds and weakens the heartwood without killing the tree.

Usually only large, overmature pines contain enough infected heartwood to make room for the red-cockaded woodpecker. These nest trees usually are from 75 to 150 years old, and some are occupied for 50 uninterrupted years.

Modern forestry practices call for harvesting these old diseased pines to make room for healthy, fast growing trees. The continual harvesting of these forest veterans has removed most of the bird's prime nesting habitat, so protected areas like state and federal parks and private recreation areas have become the last havens for this species.

Lately, however, the U.S. Forest Service and several of the larger timber companies have adopted management plans which include protecting recognized nest trees and 15 to 20 surrounding trees to serve as nest tree replacements.



Photo by Bob Busby

The white trunk pinpoints a red-cockaded nest tree.

The red-cockaded's nest trees are very obvious because of his peculiar habit of chipping holes in the bark above and below the nest cavity. This causes rosin to flow down the tree face, and the rosin covered trunk stands out like a white signpost in the sombre, brown forest.

Bird experts have advanced many theories for this strange behavior. The sticky rosin may serve as a barrier to ants and other egg-destroying insects, and since insects are his major food, any insects trapped by the rosin quite likely are eaten by the landlord. The rosin may also discourage other woodpeckers and squirrels from enlarging the entrance hole and moving in. And it very likely deters a major predator—the snake. Snakes, which normally are excellent tree climbers, find it difficult to gain a “foothold” on the smooth rosin mantle and therefore usually are deprived of an easy meal.

Since rosin is quite flammable, this same protective mantle may pose a danger to the nest tree in a forest fire. It is not surprising, then, that red-cockaded woodpeckers tend to build in areas free of underbrush. Such areas generally are unable to support a fire of any intensity.

Longleaf pine, the most fire resistant of the southern pines, seems to be preferred for nesting. Some experts feel this woodpecker evolved its unique nesting habits during a time when frequent fires set by lightning or Indians maintained almost solid stands of longleaf pine on the southern coastal plain and kept this region as clear of underbrush as our modern day parks.

Nest cavities generally are 12 to 30 feet off the ground, depending on the overall height of the tree and extent of the red-heart. The cavity itself usually is 8 inches deep and 2 inches wide.

Most cavity-dwelling birds or mammals build their entrance holes facing east to catch the first warming rays of the morning sun. The red-cockaded woodpecker, however, shows a strong preference for building its cavity opening in a westerly direction. This may keep the sun from drying and hardening the rosin mantle.

Red-cockaded woodpeckers mate for life and form a permanent bond soon after reaching maturity at one year. Each spring the female lays from two to five glossy white eggs on a bed of wood chips in the nest. Both sexes incubate the eggs but the male generally remains on the nest all night while the female spends the night outside. The young hatch after ten days.

Red-cockaded woodpeckers are gregarious birds and several adults usually nest close to one another, forming a colony of 5 to 7 individuals. Adults not breeding will help feed and care for all nestlings in the colony. Even though the juvenile birds can fly at one month, they depend on the adults for food for the first five months. Even with all this outside help, however, only 50% of the young birds survive. Fortunately, nature has a way of keeping populations with low reproductive success going. Red-cockaded woodpeckers live eight years or more and are, therefore, able to add to the population over a long time.

An estimated 200 or so red-cockaded woodpeckers live in Georgia. Active colonies have been reported in 27 counties since 1960. Fortunately, many of these colonies are on public land:

- 1) Laura S. Walker State Park (colony at picnic area)—East of Waycross on Ga. 177 between U.S. 1 & 23 and U.S. 84.
- 2) Magnolia Springs State Park and the Millen National Fish Hatchery (near picnic area)—North of Millen on U.S. 25.
- 3) Rock Eagle Park (colony at first picnic area near entrance)—Between I-20 and Eatonton on U.S. 129 & 441.
- 4) Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge (Peckerwood Trail)—Southwest of

Folkston off Ga. 23 & 121 near Camp Cornelia.

- 5) Piedmont National Wildlife Refuge (ask refuge personnel at checking station)—
West of Round Oak off Ga. 11.
- 6) Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park (ask park personnel)—
South of Chattanooga on U.S. 27.
- 7) Berry College Campus (on campus)—
North of Rome on U.S. 27.

Thanks to their brilliantly marked nest trees, the colonies are easy to find. The tiny bird itself can best be located by its “yank-yank” call as it flits through the tree tops searching for insects. A trip to any of these areas is well worth the drive, for it is not every day that an endangered species offers itself so readily to public view.

Insects often are caught in the rosin oozing down below the red-cockaded's nest. Although slightly camouflaged in the color photo on the left, it stands out clearly in a negative print from the same shot.



Photo by Derry Stockbridge

The cross section of a red-cockaded woodpecker's nest.

photo by Bob Busby



PUPPY



Photos by
Bob Busby

FEET



by Joe Cullens

Christmas gift giving can be a real problem. Everyone is familiar with the pained expression of gratitude that illuminates the lucky recipient of a chartreuse and orange tie to match the pink plaid pants that go with the tattersall sportcoat.

How about something truly different this year? If that someone special in your life is an avid sportsman, *Canis familiaris* may be just what you're looking for.

Over a hundred breeds of dog are recognized by the American Kennel Club. Of these, more than 40 are characterized by their hunting capabilities; and these 40 may be divided into two main groups: Sporting Dogs and Hounds. The dog you select is determined by the kind of hunting the recipient most enjoys.

If there is a written, traceable pedigree or list of ancestral origins, then a dog is considered purebred. But just because a dog has traceable lineage or papers to prove he comes from rec-



ognized stock does not mean that he will make a good hunter.

Just as in new cars, there are bound to be “lemons” in every batch. The novice at dog selection pretty much is at the mercy of the dog breeder for advice, but time and careful consideration are the best allies in the selection of a dog for your hunter. A quick decision or, worse, impulse buying, can lead to wasted money and a great deal of disappointment. Keep in mind that dogs live an average of 10 to 12 years, and if an animal is to be part of your life for that long, you had better choose carefully.

A word of advice . . . if you want a good hunter, stay away from pet shops. While many of the pet shop offerings seem to be “bargains,” the results often are disappointing. Stick to the kennel operators or professional breeders, since most of them are quite knowledgeable and have

high standards. After all, their business depends on satisfied customers. The pet shop owner has many species to worry about, while the kennel operator has one specialty . . . dogs.

Check the classified section of your local newspaper to locate a kennel or breeder nearby, so if any problems develop you can easily contact the previous owner. Many a forlorn buyer has found himself involved in the expense and hassle of letter writing, transportation costs, and short tempers.

As we noted, the type of hunting dictates the type of dog. The Sporting Dogs are the bird hunters. This category includes such favorites as the Labrador and golden retrievers, English and Irish setters, Brittany spaniel, Gordon setter, German shorthaired and German wirehaired pointers, pointer, and weimeraner. The Hounds include beagles, black and tan coonhounds, red-

bone coon hounds, American foxhounds, bloodhounds, and even the cute little dachshunds.

Each breed has its own characteristics, and careful consideration should be given to size, stamina, and temperament. Consult an owner for information about a breed's characteristics.

Hunting dogs are happiest when they have plenty of room to exercise. A penned or kenneled hunting dog becomes nervous and jittery, and develops a tendency to be rough. Many breeds are high-strung and must be handled carefully to avoid cowing. Temperament is largely a matter of breeding; careful selection based on pedigree can eliminate much of the mystery. Ask questions about the dog's sire and dam. If possible, make a casual observation of the temperament displayed by the dog's relatives.

All hunting breeds make good pets. Contrary to popular opinion, a sporting dog is not ruined by making him a pet. The love you give and the way you treat a dog makes him what he is. A dog is a mirror of its owner's treatment.

There are some objections to the selection of a female, but the positive aspects should not be overlooked. She generally is cleaner around the house. If you have children, females are noted guardians and protect children much as they would their own puppies. And there is an educational aspect to the ownership of a female. The mystery of reproduction can be much more easily explained if a child has witnessed the birth of puppies.

Still, there are the obvious distasteful aspects of owning a female; but if they become too much, simply have the dog spayed. Male dogs are much less of a problem. They make excellent pets as well, though they sometimes are harder to train.

Size is an important factor in the choice of a dog. Sporting dogs range from the five to nine inch tall dachshund to the monstrous Irish wolfhound topping out at 34 inches. Weight varies from a petite five pounds to a bulky 140. Feeding habits are directly tied to size; if you don't think you can afford a large dog, select one of the less vigorous eaters.

All dogs shed hair twice a year. The long-haired varieties will involve considerable time in grooming unless you plan to send the animal to a professional groomer, which can be quite expensive.

Age is another factor to consider when purchasing a dog. There are those who suggest picking a puppy at five to six weeks while others claim that an older dog is better. A puppy within the seven to twelve week age group probably is your best bet.

The novice should familiarize himself with the looks of a standard specimen of the breed, then base his/her selection on looks, personality, health, and bloodline or pedigree. All pedigreed dogs will look very much like their parents, al-



though occasionally pups will have minor flaws in coloration or size that would disqualify them from the show ring but have nothing to do with hunting prowess.

Here are a few simple guides:

- 1) The nose should be moist and cool.
- 2) The eyes should be clear with no redness or discharge.
- 3) There should be no fleas or lice.
- 4) There should be no open sores.
- 5) The coat should be soft and glossy.
- 6) There should be no sign of diarrhea; it could be an indication of internal parasitic infection.
- 7) There should be no deformities, especially enlarged joints.
- 8) Teeth should be clean and white.

Prices can vary from less than a hundred to several thousand dollars. Generally the cost of an animal is proportional to the length and breadth of the pedigree, but price is not neces-

sarily an indication of how good a dog is. Breed, sex, age and conformity to standards all play a large part. Stick to a good-looking dog with reasonably good blood lines. Championship stock is best left to the experts. Many a good hunter has been developed from less-than-likely stock.

When you are sure about the type of animal you want and after you have reviewed the dog's pedigree, make your decision. After you've made the selection ask if you can take the pup on a trial basis, in case he develops a serious disorder within a couple of weeks after purchase. Ask if the dog has had his "shots," and, if so, which ones. See if the puppy has been wormed. Get the proper registration papers and forms.

If you've followed this simple advice, then more than likely you'll be satisfied and, more important, that special person will glow with an appreciation that cannot be described. Merry Christmas!



Medicinal Plants

by Ann Barber

Photos by Leo T. Barber



Clematis: Most of the clematis growing in Georgia are woody vines. They often are called "leather-flowers" because of the thick, leathery texture of their sepals.



St. John's Wort: This 5-petaled yellow flower is one of several species of *Hypericum* growing in Georgia. The five petals distinguish it from the St. Peter's Wort which has only four.

Goldenrod: Some 60 species of goldenrod brighten fields and roadsides during the late summer and fall.



Iris: The Creek Indians held the Iris in such high regard that each village cultivated a small plantation of it.





Columbine: Columbine can be found in woods and on rocky banks in the Piedmont and mountain section of the state.

Suppose a present-day doctor handed his patient a prescription like this: "Get a wildcat. Extract his fat. Mix with ground rose petals and use as an ointment." Chances are the patient soon would be looking for another doctor.

And yet for most of man's existence on earth, his "prescriptions" came, like this one, from field and forest, not from the drugstore or apothecary. The use of plants as medicine goes so far back in human history that we can only speculate about how it actually began. The first herbalists on this continent, of course, were the American Indians, and the knowledge they accumulated has been handed down even to us.

To be sure, the first white settlers had a wide knowledge of medicinal plants; but, unfortunately, the plants, like the settlers, were European and they did not always transplant well. Thus the knowledge the Indians were willing to share was valuable to survival in this new land.



Joe-pye-weed: In late summer and early fall the tall, showy, Joe-pye-weed, sometimes called "Queen of the meadow" can be seen in our marshes, meadows, and woodlands.

Medicine men of friendly tribes would advise the colonists on the useful plants growing in their areas, and at least one native practitioner achieved an immortality of sorts: the tall handsome plant called Joe Pye Weed was named for a New England medicine man who reportedly used it to cure typhus fever.

Writers who traveled through America during these early days always were interested in Indian villages and Indian life, and one thing often noted in their journals was what plants the local tribe used for healing. For instance, Peter Kalm, a naturalist sent to North America by the Swedish Academy in 1747, wrote that "the remedies for toothache are almost as numerous as days in the year." The chief remedy used by the Iroquois involved rubbing the ripe seed capsules of the Virginia anemone into pieces. The resulting cotton-like substance was dipped into strong brandy and then put into the hollow tooth which, Kalm reported, "commonly ceases to ache soon after." Perhaps

if the brandy were strong enough and the remedy used frequently, the patient simply ceased to care if his tooth ached!

Another Iroquois cure was placing a piece of the inner bark of the elder tree on the part of the cheek where the pain was most violent. The Alabama tribe put a piece of goldenrod root into the cavity, and some of the western Indians chewed the inner bark of the ash tree. One herbalist who tried this reported that it was indeed successful in relieving the pain, but that, unfortunately, "the sensation of the acrid bark was nearly or fully as unpleasant as the ache."

Still another remedy for toothache was the dried root of the golden-flowered plant called St.-John's-Wort. This was, however, not the only use for St.-John's-Wort. If it were in use today, we probably would call it a "broad-spectrum" remedy, for it was used both in Europe and in this country for a whole catalog of ailments ranging from nervous disorders to bullet wounds. It was said that the dew which fell from the plant on St. John's Day (June 24th) had a mysterious quality which preserved eyesight.

Elder: In addition to their medicinal uses, elders are a useful food plant: their flowers are beaten into pancake batter, and their berries are made into pies and home-made wine.

The herb also was used for other than physical problems. Peasants in Medieval Europe gathered great branches of it to hang on their doors and windows to keep out the powers of darkness. In Scotland, it was carried about in pockets as a safeguard against evil spirits and witchcraft. Having so many diverse and beneficial qualities, the plant was collected, dipped in oil, and made into a balm which was so well regarded that the plant itself became known as "balm-of-the-warrior's-wound."

Almost as versatile as St.-John's-Wort was the cactus or prickly pear, which has been called one of Nature's great gifts to the Indians. It was, perhaps, best known as a food plant. Indians ate the purplish fruit (after carefully removing the murderous spines) and they toasted the seeds for grinding into meal. But the cactus had important healing properties too. Its flat, green stems were roasted and placed on either side of the neck to relieve the swelling of mumps. The stems also were used for rheumatism, chronic ulcers, and gout, and their juice was applied to wounds as a dressing.

Many different cacti are used by gardeners today in rock gardens, terrariums, and dish gardens. But these and other wildflowers which we admire for their beauty and grace were





Cactus: The "prickly pear" was valued by Indians as a source of food and medicine.

Trillium: This is a favorite spring wildflower in the mountain and Piedmont regions. Its color ranges from white to pink, rose, yellow-green and purple.



valued by the Indians for their more practical qualities. The lovely white trillium, a Spring bloomer in the Georgia woodlands, was used for many purposes, including the relief of pain in childbirth. Apparently the settlers also found it effective, for they used it and gave it the name "birthroot."

Clematis leaves were mashed and used as a poultice by western Indians in the treatment of boils, while white pioneers in the Smokies employed the leaves of an eastern species to make a tea for intestinal spasms. The root of the blue flag (iris) was a popular medicine among many Indian tribes. William Bartram, that tireless traveler-naturalist of the colonial period, tells of visiting an Upper Creek village on the Tallapoosa River in Alabama. These villagers, he says,

"hold this root in high estimation, every town cultivates a little plantation of it, having a large artificial pond, just without the town, planted and almost overgrown with it, where they usually dig clay for pottery, and mortar and plaster for their buildings, and I observed where they had lately been digging up this root."

The colorful columbine, long a favorite cultivated flower, was known by the Indians to be as useful as it was beautiful. They used various parts of the plant for such widely diverse purposes as tea for diarrhea, an ointment for aching joints, for shampoo, and even for a love charm.

With so many remedies available in the wild, free for the taking, the casual reader might wonder why he shouldn't by-pass the doctor and the drug store and use herbal medicine himself. Indeed, there has been quite a renewal of interest in the subject recently. But do-it-yourself medicine is risky business.

After all, the herbal doctors were well-trained, highly expert practitioners of their craft. They were observant students of Nature, who could precisely identify which plant species were beneficial and which ones, though similar in appearance, were either of no value or actually harmful. So the safest recommendation is to look upon herbal medicine as the interesting and enjoyable study it is, but leave the actual practice of medicine to the professionals.

more

BOW
hunting



by Gibson Johnston, Jr. and Floyd Anderson

Photos by Bob Busby

In *Bow Hunting Primer* (September, 1974), we discussed the basic equipment needed by a beginning bow hunter with economy in mind. Now that the archery season is closed, let's take a look at some facets of bow hunting which we might have missed in preparing for the season, and at some hunting techniques which will cut down on "beginner's mistakes" next year.

If you didn't get your deer, remember that one of the greatest attributes of our sport is those memories of the still, quiet beauty of the woods as we waited patiently for that prize deer. Whether or not he came, we accepted the challenge and entered a whole new world, meeting the deer on even terms, which is exactly the reason for bow hunting's rapid growth.

But now is the time to prepare for next season: so let's look at our present equipment and future needs, bearing in mind our experience this season.

Bows

First, was your bow exactly what you needed? Hopefully, you selected your bow with the following considerations:

1. *Weight* — what a controversial subject! Let's look at it practically: A penetration test a few years ago compared a .30-06 rifle with a 50-pound bow. A 10-pound sandbag backed with plate glass was the target. From 50 yards the .30-06 bullet lodged half way through the sandbag. The arrow sped through the sandbag and broke the plate glass. Past 50 yards, however, the arrow force drops off sharply, while the .30-06 bullet remains potent up to 200 yards or more. Most bow shots at deer are taken from under 30 yards, so a bow weight of 40- to 50-pounds at 28 inches draw probably is sufficient for most of us.

A general rule to remember: "shoot no more bow weight than is required to get the job done." In fairness to the animal you hunt, make a clean kill with maximum accuracy—you'd be surprised how adversely a slightly overweight bow will affect your accuracy.



String silencers and brush buttons are important small cogs in your bow hunting machine.





A good shooting glove or tab reduces "arrow pinch" and thus smooths your release.



Cross sections of arrows: aluminum (left), fiberglass (center), cedar (right).

2. *Length and Brace Height* — we hope the bow you chose was around 60", unless your favorite hunting spot was in a cane break. Remember this rule on bow length: "you sacrifice smoothness and power—as well as accuracy—when you select a bow of 56" or below." Power loss is due to the higher brace height required for short bows. The longer the arrow is in contact with the string after release, the more force is applied to the arrow. Short bows have more concussion upon release, causing bow control problems which diminish smoothness and accuracy.

Arrows

So much for bow selection. Now let's see about matching the right arrow shaft to the bow, a very important factor. Here is a basic rule for

arrow selection: "there is only one arrow size (spine/length combination = length, diameter, and wall thickness for hollow fiberglass and aluminum), which, when released properly, will fly near perfectly in a given bow."

The arrow must flex as it leaves the bow and too much or too little flex will influence its flight adversely. Too much flex will cause the arrow to veer off "true flight" to the right, while too little flex will throw the arrow to the left. Note that an increase in arrow draw length (adding draw weight against the arrow) over 28" will add to the bow draw weight, thus adding force to the arrow, increasing flex. Fletching makes this problem less detectable, but it exists. Bare shaft shooting at a range of about 10 to 15 yards will expose mismatched shafts.

Improper arrow/bow match probably is the most common cause for archery dropouts, not the actual inability of the archer. Arrow mismatch causes inaccuracy frustration, which, when combined with poor shooting form, leads to loss of confidence. So take a little time and extra effort to be sure your arrows are right for you and your bow.

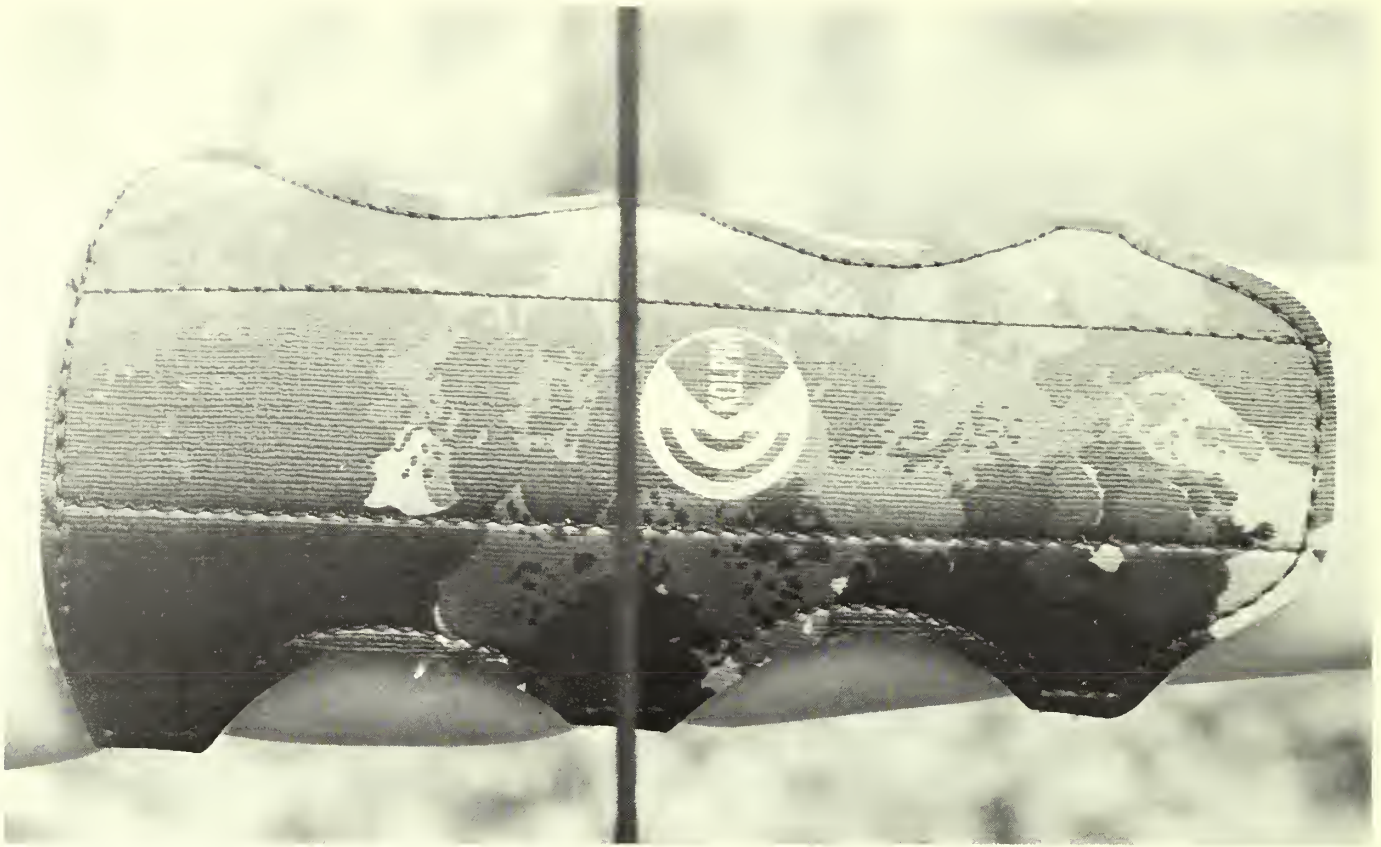
Cedar arrows allow little control over arrow/bow tuning. Fiberglass and aluminum arrows, however, are sized so that an arrow can be closely matched to the bow and to an archer's release style.

A soft or "dead" release (holding the release hand in a fixed position after release) has the effect of stiffening the arrow, because the archer releases less bow weight, even though he draws the same length arrow. Conversely, a strong release (the hand is drawn quickly to the shoulder on release) adds to bow weight, thus increasing arrow flex. Obviously, the problem of matching arrow spine to the bow and the archer's release is not simple. Seek expert instruction if you want top results.

Fiberglass arrows are less durable than aluminum, but if you settle on aluminum, buy only high grade aluminum such as Formula X7. Don't buy low or medium grade arrows such as 24SRTX, Swift, or XX75 for hunting. These arrows are fine for tournament archery, but are less than satisfactory for hunting.

Now, the other miscellaneous equipment:

Arm Guard—This piece of equipment should be chosen with care to see that it is big enough



Simple though it is, the arm guard is a crucial piece of your equipment. Without it, your sleeve can easily deflect the string.

to keep your sleeve from gathering the string. This will cause a low and left of true flight arrow for a right handed shooter.

Glove or Shooting Tab — Don't use the string glove gimmick which attaches directly to the string. It causes severe string twist and a slow, erratic release. Choose a good leather tab or glove, preferably a "kant-pinch" style with the synthetic spacer between fore and middle fingers; this keeps arrow pinch at full draw to a minimum. The shorter the bow, the more pronounced this problem becomes, for it is due to the acute angle formed by the string while held at full draw. It does affect arrow flight adversely.

Camouflage Cover — A must for concealment while stalking or waiting for deer on the ground; choose camo-cover which suits the type of foliage in the area to be hunted. Remember, though, that you must wear the legal 500 square inches of fluorescent orange while bow hunting during firearms season.

Brush Buttons — The brush buttons are used on each end of the string at the point of string/

bow tip contact. They are necessary to keep brush, limbs, and vines from becoming lodged between the bow limb and string. Without them the bow quickly can be "reversed stringed"; where the limbs are twisted, the string slides or is pulled off the side of the limb and the bow reverses — severe bow damage results.

Silencers—String silencers are used to deaden the string "twang," which can cause the deer to "jump the string." Sound travels at over 1,100 feet per second, while an arrow travels at only 200 to 300 feet per second. At a range of 100 feet the string sound would reach the deer in .023 seconds. The arrow would arrive in .50 seconds, leaving .477 seconds for the deer to react. Human reaction time is between .25 and .50 seconds, and a deer is quicker; hence the need for silencers.

In our next issue, we'll cover the best way to use this carefully chosen gear in hunting: instinctive shooting. It's a technique that can be learned, and long winter months are a good time to begin.

Holiday Book Reviews

by T. Craig Martin

At our house, when we've given up on "creative" gifts, when homemade fruitcake, exotic soaps and aftershaves, puzzles, leftover photographic prints, handmade Eskimo art, subscriptions to *Audubon* or *Natural History* or *Polish Life* no longer seem "just right," and when our self-respect won't allow us to fall into the socks 'n ties 'n handkerchiefs syndrome, we give books.

We return to books with a relieved sigh, and enter the bookstore or begin our searches through the catalogs in the calm assurance that our efforts will be rewarded. We'll be happy, knowing that our gift will please for years, and the recipient will be happy, looking ahead to quiet hours of pleasure.

Not that the search for the "perfect" book is any easier than the search for the right tie, tacklebox, hunting jacket, or canoe paddle. Books vary at least as much as the people who give and receive them; discovering the finest combination of book and recipient often is a time-consuming, frustrating, delightful experience.

Perhaps that delight is the key: the fun and excitement of leafing through all those books, of trying to predict just what will pique Aunt

Tess or Uncle Henry; that's the lure of books at Christmas . . .

For any of our readers who want to join in the fun, the *Outdoors in Georgia* staff has perused a few of the more likely contenders. Our reviews:



FISHERMAN'S BOUNTY
edited by Nick Lyons, Crown
Publishers, Inc., 352 pp., \$6.95
(hardbound).

Most of the familiar names are here: Ed Zern, Corey Ford, Sparse Grey Hackle, Art Flick, Elmer Ransom, Arnold Gingrich. There's a note on Dame Juliana Berners(but nothing from the famed *Treatise* unless one counts a quotation used by Washington Irving in another selection), and, of course, the obligatory few pages from old Izaak Walton.

But there are some less commonplace entries too: the little piece from Washington Irving, short stories from Chekov and De Maupassant, a lovely ironic piece from Rudyard Kipling, poetry from Yeats and Elizabeth Bishop. All in all, the *Bounty* offers a blend that should entice most fishermen.

It is a good book, one that will beguile almost anyone interested in fishing as an art. But it suffers, at least as far as southern anglers are concerned, from the same ailment that afflicts the whole of angling literature. It is incredibly overburdened by writing on trout and the techniques of fishing for members of the trout and char clan. This malady has its roots deep in the history and culture of sport angling: until the very recent past, sport fishing meant fishing for trout, with a fly. And the men who wrote on angling grew up fishing for trout, with a fly. Since fine writing is the product (at least partially) of training and knowledge, the best writing about angling has been about that portion of the sport those men knew best.

There is no question, really, that the great examples of angling literature concern trout in

Also ye shall not use this forsayd crafti
disport for no covetousness to the encreas-
ing and sparing of your money only, but
principally for your solace, and to cause
the helth of your body and speryally of
your soule.

Treatise of fishing with the Angle
ca. 1450

one way or another; so an editor who wants the best for his readers is driven to select from trout/salmon-related material. And, of course, the editors choose from among the pieces they know; they generally are most comfortable with the trout literature.

Well, most southerners don't fish for trout. They look for bass or bream or crappie, the fish that most of the great writers deal with only when no trout are rising. But the fine southern writers have not dealt much with fishing, at least not as far as one can tell from the anthologies.

There are, of course, the cultural differences in style: compare *Practical Blass Bass Fishing* (reviewed below) with, say, Art Flick's "The Selectivity of Trout" or Vince Marinaro's "The Hidden Hatch" in this volume. In our region, sportfishing grew from the search for food: in England and the northeastern U.S., it began as a sport. The great literature revels in huge trout on tiny flies and hairbreadth leaders; ours is the land of the bass boat, the plastic worm, and broomstick-like worm rods.

At heart, though, the varied facets of the sport share more similarities than differences, and the angler who loves to read of early mornings on Seminole or Lanier should just as much enjoy reading about the search for marlin or a boy's struggle for his first 8-inch trout. A story like Roland Pertwee's "The River God" must appeal to any angler worthy of the name.

So should this selection.

TCM



MODERN
WATERFOWLING
by John O. Cartier, St. Martin's
Press, 396 pp. \$10.95 (hard-
bound).

When the wood smoke balks at rising out of the chimney, when the last, forlorn maple leaf clings in a curved fist to the stark limb and autumn's colors are memories wrapped in varying shades of gray, it is the time. That time when normally sane men greet the dawn standing waist deep in the midst of some swamp discovering that pinholes in rubber boots can leak icy

torrents of numbing cold; the time to hear wings whistle, to smell the aroma of cedar wood and to watch the woodpecker tap the morse code of his greeting to the morning. In short, it's time to go duck hunting.

Duck hunters are a pretty tight clique and in any town or region are apt to know each other on sight. The one thing they can spot a mile away is a phoney—the guy who pretends to know a lot about ducks or geese but doesn't.

I note this because I have a shelf behind me as I type this that is lined with duck hunting books—most of which aren't worth the paper they're printed on. A few were written by "outstanding" writers, but a quick reading shows them as anything but outstanding duck hunters.

John Cartier's book is different. It is an honest book and it reads true. It is filled with down-to-earth hints for the hunter, and is good reading for the guy who is just beginning to hunt waterfowl.

The chapter on *Calls, Decoys and Blinds* is the best I have ever read. He says, "Any gunner who can realistically produce four common calls will kill 95 percent of the puddlers that he would have bagged if he were expert at reproducing a dozen calls." Friends, that is telling it like it is.

Another truism: "when I say decoys should be oversize, I mean they should be giants." He ain't kidding; I've learned that *in the field*, and I've never met a good duck hunter who disagrees.

Another section, worth the price of the whole book, is on *How to Find Top Waterfowling Wherever Your Career Takes You*. This chapter deals not only with how to find waterfowl, but how to have good manners as you go about it. It's the kind of secret a hunting father will give his son as they drive back from a good hunt. Cartier attributes it to a friend:

"His secret is taking his family to the increasingly popular rural church dinners. These summer get-together dinners are staged as money-raising stunts by many church congregations. The meals are huge, delicious and reasonably priced. Tickets are available to the public.

"The point is," George says, "that I meet a lot of farmers at these sessions. I'm meeting them at a time when I'm well scrubbed and neatly dressed. In other words I don't look as much like a bum as I would in my hunting clothes. When

I meet these men I introduce them to my wife and children. I don't even mention hunting until we become fairly well acquainted and I've established the fact that I'm a respectable family man. Actually, any hunting leads I get are by-products of delightful evenings. These rural church suppers are great fun."

Friends, that's more than telling it like it is. John Cartier has done gone and let the secret of good hunting out! Maybe you won't memorize that passage, but my son and I already have!

Bill Moorehead



FISHLESS DAYS, ANGLING NIGHTS

by Sparse Grey Hackle, Crown Publishers, Inc., 223 pp., \$7.50 (hardbound).

Sparse Grey Hackle remembers the dreams elicited by the old sporting goods catalogs ("The Magic Carpet"); *I* remember the dreams his articles started in me. Oh, I loved the catalogs too — those of the 1950s, *not* the 1910s and 20s — but it was those peanut-butter-and-jelly-splattered issues of *Outdoor Life* and *Sports Afield* that really carried me away.

Now that I'm older and "educated," I can see that my faith wasn't misplaced, that Sparse Grey Hackle was a true prophet. He speaks not of killing the biggest or the most fish (although a fierce competitive spirit lends a simmering undercurrent to his writing), but of enjoying the chase. I can see now that he is a fine writer, and I can wish that I had learned more of his grace and wit.

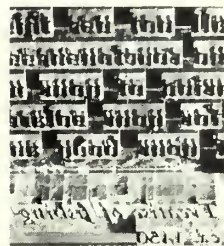
Although these stories — or most of them, at least — seem so light, so fresh, each has its point. And the points are as valid as they were then, even if I missed them in those days. His wry commentary on wildlife management ("The Young Conservationist") is a gentle warning against careless meddling, a warning we all might heed. And "Fantasia" offers an easy slap on the wrist for those of us who succumb to equipment-mania. "The Perfect Angler" provides standards we all might follow.

There's information here too: how many Georgians, for example, know that the famous

Theodore Gordon, "the father of dry-fly fishing in America," lived for ten years in Savannah? And there's pain, the pain of days gone forever, of rivers ruined, of sport lost in the population crunch, of friends lost in the innumerable tragedies of passing time.

It's a wise and funny book, a book not so much about fishing as about the outdoors. Those who love the outdoors will appreciate meeting this fine writer.

TCM



SHOTGUNS

by Elmer Keith, Bonanza Books, 334 pp., \$1.98 (hardbound).

If you happen to be a fan of either shotguns or Elmer Keith, this book is for you — it offers ample portions of both.

First, and foremost, it is a shotgun book, literally crowding the margins with smoothbore information. From the ordinary to the exotic, this compact volume covers shotguns: lock, stock, barrel and more.

There are few surprises in the contents; the book sets out to explain shotguns and forthrightly does so. A cursory overview of the 21 chapter headings indicates that most of the "standard" shotgun topics are addressed. The information in these chapters also is standard, essentially in agreement with most shotgun texts.

What *is* surprising is the overpowering bulk of information and the exhaustive depth of investigation. As an example, Chapter Six is titled, "Shotgun Barrels, Chambers, Forcing Cones, Bores, Chokes, Etc."; and there is a generous supply of "etc." Complete enough, but Chapter Seven picks up with "Chokes and Their Uses," and offers even more detailed information.

These are not quickie, once-over lightly discussions, but full explanations of various shotgun aspects. Such thorough, almost painful, attention to detail is a characteristic not only of the book but of the man who wrote it.

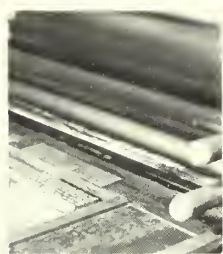
Elmer Keith, rancher, hunting guide, hunter, has been shooting (almost continuously one

thinks) since 1908, and writing about it for almost 40 years. He is one of the all time great firearms authorities and one of the leading firearms innovators. When he dwells on some aspect of guns, he is not repeating what he has heard or read, but relating his and his associates' experiences as they standardized what now are the generally accepted truths of shooting. Keith is the horse's mouth on firearms technicalities.

Aside from the technicalities, there is a strong undercurrent of pure Keith, which comes through in the many examples, anecdotes, and personal remembrances which brighten the book. In the preface, Charles Askins notes that Keith wrote "hesitantly and somewhat awkwardly at first," but judging from this book, Keith has lost all hesitancy. He writes, as ever, in a familiar, personal style, still awkward, but with frankness and authenticity that flows well and leaves no uncertainty that he knows exactly what he is talking about.

Sprinkled with homelies and rampant with Keithisms, *Shotguns* is a comprehensive book on scatterguns, technically sound and good reading to boot. (Note: This is a reprint edition and your bookstore may argue it doesn't exist. It does.)

AFP



GROUSE FEATHERS

by Burton Spiller, Crown Publishers, Inc., 207 pp., \$7.50 (hardbound).

The ruffed grouse is found in a very small portion of the state and is of more than passing interest to an equally small portion of the state's sportsmen. Why then does *Outdoors in Georgia* hawk a book about grouse hunting? Because *Grouse Feathers* is a classic of sporting literature, and as such has an ingrained appeal for the reading sportsman, regardless of his own favored game.

Grouse Feathers is no "how-to" hunt text; neither is it a technical treatise on the plumage of *Bonasa umbellus*. Indeed, it seems only incidental that author Spiller chose the ruffed grouse

as his protagonist—an accident of geographical location.

The book is a collection of short stories, yarns, if you please, that simply recount the experiences and encounters of a perceptive man in the pursuit of his favored game. Beyond grouse, Spiller dissects companions and competitors; discusses dogs, good and not so good; and tells of richly remembered moments.

Spiller has been called the poet laureate of grouse hunting and certainly is one of the leading sporting writers in an era which seemed to sprout them. Spiller wrote a classic which joins the ranks of Puitledge, Buckingham, Foster, et. al.

The writing in "Feathers" is simple and direct. Neither artful contrivances nor circumnavigation deflects his stories from being good yarns well told.

AFP

Also we shall not use this foreword as a support for our recommendations in the review and spring of your money only, but principally for your safety, and to cause the truth of your body and spirituality of your soul.

Practical Black Bass Fishing



PRACTICAL BLACK BASS FISHING

by Mark Sosin and Bill Dance, Crown Publishers, Inc., 215 pp., \$7.95 (hardbound).

There are bass books and there are bass books, but for the serious bass fisherman *Practical Black Bass Fishing* is one of the best around. The authors have painstakingly assembled a potpourri of the best tips on how to load a stringer.

Practical Black Bass Fishing is an excellent introduction to the world of scientific bass angling. With careful attention to detail Sosin and Dance take the reader from a basic understanding of the fish and its habits to an outline of basic bass fishing techniques and equipment.

Bass fishing has grown from hit-and-miss gambling to an art form of its own. *Practical Black Bass Fishing* brings the reader, whether novice or pro, up to date on the state of the art with a collection of ideas from the best bass anglers in the country. Even the most self-confident of fishermen will find a few things he didn't know or realize.

If there's a bass fisherman in your family, *Practical Black Bass Fishing* would make a good "stocking stuffer" this Christmas.

JC

Outdoor Calendar



Seasons Opening

Deer: bonus hunts in

Game Zone I — Dec. 21 - Jan. 1

Game Zone II — Dec. 26 - Jan. 1

Game Zone IV — Dec. 26 - Jan. 1
(specified counties only)

Game Zone V — Dec. 26 - Jan. 1
(specified counties only)

Duck: Nov. 27 - Dec. 5; Dec. 11 - Jan. 20

Coots: Nov. 27 - Dec. 5; Dec. 11 - Jan. 20

Gallinules: Nov. 13 - Jan. 20

Mergansers: Nov. 27 - Dec. 5;
Dec. 11 - Jan. 20

Snipe: Dec. 20 - Feb. 22

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